



State of Connecticut
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
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Chairperson Ritter, Chairperson Gerratana, Senator Slossberg, Representative Lyddy, and esteemed members of the Public Health Committee.

I am here today to testify in favor of SB 369, specifically on the provision to facilitate timely intervention in the event of an epileptic seizure experienced by a student.

I doubt I need to instruct the committee on the urgency involved when an epileptic seizure occurs. It clearly *can be* a life or death moment, although it's not always life-threatening. All this bill seeks to do is to assure a good outcome by making it more likely that a student suffering a prolonged seizure can receive emergency administration of the essential drug Diastat, if and when needed.

Let me be clear: the best possible situation is for an experienced medical professional, most likely the school nurse, to administer any needed controlled medication to a student. It would be great if we could have confidence, even certainty, that a nurse will be available at the critical juncture of a seizure.

But common sense argues that there will be instances when the nurse is not readily available, particularly when the student is in transit to or from school. This places the student at risk, potentially at great risk if the seizure is prolonged.

The good news is that, to my understanding, responsible adults *can* be trained to administer Diastat. To me, knowing that a trained adult accompanying that student

would be in a position to respond appropriately at the onset of a life-threatening seizure, provides the sort of "peace of mind" that any parent desperately desires regarding the safety of his or her child.

The Legislature has previously demonstrated its sensitivity to such circumstances in its passage of legislation to enable the appropriate use of epi-pens. I submit that the proposed bill seeks to accomplish a similar and parallel purpose. To my knowledge, the state's experience with the epi-pen law has been positive, and I expect that this new legislation would result in equally beneficial value for all those involved with maintaining the well-being of our students and children.

I urge passage of this bill, including specific language addressing the administration of Diastat for a student in transit. Thank you.